

Date: 03/24/2011 12:08 AM
From: Steve Wharton/R8/USEPA/US
To: Rebecca Thomas
Cc: "Bill Murray", "Carol Campbell"
Subject: Fw: ROC: Libby OU5 - AP Matt Brown

Rebecca, Thanks for fielding these questions. think you did a great job with your responses.
I would like to follow up with you and Deb McKean on the sampling approach before you leave on Spring Break.
Thanks,
Steve

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Sent by EPA wireless services.

From: Rebecca Thomas
Sent: 03/23/2011 05:48 PM MDT
To: Sonya Pennock; Libby Faulk; wharton.steve@epa.gov; Cirian.Mike@epa.gov; Victor Ketellapper
Subject: ROC: Libby OU5 - AP Matt Brown

I had a lengthy conversation with AP reporter Matt Brown this afternoon regarding the wood chips at Libby OU5.

is questions were far ranging and I did my best. In summary, he asked about the following:

- Clarification between wood chip piles and waste bark. I indicated that the waste bark, in the area of the former nursery, has not been moved or sold by Rumelhart. That material is in a fenced, unused area of the property. Qualitative sampling shows a more frequent presence of asbestos in the waste bark than in the wood chip piles. he wood chip piles were sampled with results showing 4 of 20 samples positive for the presence of asbestos (TEM). This is consistent with the data EPA sent to Paul Rumelhart in August 2009.

- When did Rumelhart begin to sell the wood chips. indicated that I did not know and that the wood chip piles have been on the property for many years.

- When did EPA become aware that the wood chips were being sold. again indicated that I did not know. e asked when I became aware that wood chips were being sold. told the reporter that when I was visiting the site last fall I saw some trucks moving the material off site. He asked if I was concerned at the time and I said no. e asked why Rumelhart requested data on the wood chip piles in 2009 - did I know that he planned to move or sell the material. I said I didn't remember if Paul told me why he needed the data, I simply provided it to him as requested.

- Who has responsibility for managing this material. indicated that material containing asbestos over 1% is regulated and EPA does not have enough data to know whether or not the material contains greater than 1% asbestos. hould EPA have done additional characterization and provided the property owner with direction. I said that EPA completed the RI in the fall of 2010, and we're preparing the FS now. o remedy has been selected for the property yet. hould Rumelhart have done additional characterization. described our best management practice fact sheets about using care managing material of unknown asbestos content.

- To whom has Rumelhart sold the material and where has it gone. said that based on a recent conversation with Rumelhart, some of the material has been used for wood pellet manufacturing and some of it has been used for landscaping both in Libby and beyond. oes EPA intend to find out where the material has gone and how it has

been used. o. hat volume of material has been used within the community. PA doesn't know.

- The reporter understood that the City has used some of the wood chips as landscape material. s EPA going to approach the City to find out where this material might have been placed and do any further investigation and/or cleanup. o.

- Does EPA share Councilman Orr's concerns about this material. said we shared the concern sufficiently to assist Rumelhart n further characterization of the remaining wood chips.

- What if a homeowner expects that his property may have been recontaminated based on the use of this material. described the ERS service and said that a homeowner may contact ERS for an evaluation. hat evaluation would include a visual inspection, a discussion with the homeowner to find out where the suspect material may have come from, an evaluation of the property to see what potential exposures to the suspect material might be, and perhaps additional sampling and removal, if warranted. RS evaluation is done on a site-specific basis.

- Are there other commercial sources of product within the community that may contain asbestos. I told him that I didn't know; there are many areas of the site that EPA has not addressed yet and we continue to work on the risk assessment. n the meantime, we continue to reduce exposures. explained that as a conservative measure, EPA uses backfill material only from outside the Libby valley and that asbestos is a naturally occurring substance. further explained there is likely a background concentration of asbestos in the area, but that study was ongoing and we have no definitive information about background concentrations.

- In retrospect, would EPA have done anything differently. o.

There are two follow-up questions that I agreed to get answers to and get back to him:

1) hen did EPA begin using backfill from beyond the Libby Valley?

2) hat is the date of the aerial photography in the RI report?

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